

Appl. No. 10/707,519
Amdt. dated January 26, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 28, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended): A method for automatically calibrating the frequency range of a phase lock loop (PLL), the method comprising:

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providing a loop filter for accumulating charge to generate a loop-filter voltage;

10 providing a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) having a plurality of frequency ranges, the VCO receiving the loop-filter voltage and generating an output signal having a frequency according to the loop-filter voltage and a currently selected VCO frequency range;

15 connecting an input of the loop filter to a constant voltage; and

selecting an optimal VCO frequency range by comparing the frequency of a PLL feedback signal for a plurality of the VCO frequency ranges with the frequency of a reference signal, the PLL feedback signal being generated according to the VCO output signal;

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wherein the optimal VCO frequency range comprises either a first VCO frequency range or an adjacent second VCO frequency range such that the frequency of the PLL feedback signal is faster than the frequency of the reference signal for the first VCO frequency range and the frequency of the PLL feedback signal is slower than the frequency of the reference signal for the second VCO frequency range;

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selecting the optimal VCO frequency range further comprises synchronizing the PLL feedback signal with the reference signal;

Appl. No. 10/707,519
Amdt. dated January 26, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 28, 2005

the input of the loop filter is connected to a medium voltage and selecting the optimal VCO frequency range further comprises conducting a binary search starting from a middle VCO frequency range and proceeding until the optimal VCO frequency range is found; and

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the optimal VCO frequency range comprises the first VCO frequency range when the time duration between the second rising edges of the reference signal and the PLL feedback signal for the first VCO frequency range is shorter than that of the second VCO frequency range, otherwise comprises the second VCO frequency range when the time duration between the second rising edges of the reference signal and the PLL feedback signal for the second VCO frequency range is shorter than that of the first VCO frequency range.

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2. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a feedback divider for generating the PLL feedback signal according to the VCO output signal.

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3. (cancelled)

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4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the input of the loop filter is connected to a maximum voltage or a minimum voltage and selecting the optimal VCO frequency range further comprises conducting a linear search starting from a lowest or a highest VCO frequency range and proceeding until the optimal VCO frequency range is found.

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6. (cancelled)

Appl. No. 10/707,519
Amdt. dated January 26, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 28, 2005

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein finding the first VCO frequency range comprises mapping a divide factor of a feedback divider to a predicted first VCO frequency range.

9. – 14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended): A phase lock loop (PLL) comprising:

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a loop filter for accumulating charge to generate a loop-filter voltage;

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a VCO having a plurality of frequency ranges, the VCO receiving the loop-filter voltage and generating an output signal having a frequency according to the loop-filter voltage and a currently selected VCO frequency range; ~~and~~

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calibration logic for selecting an optimal VCO frequency range, wherein during PLL calibration, the input of the loop filter is connected to a constant voltage, and the calibration logic searches for an optimal VCO frequency range by comparing the frequency of a PLL feedback signal for a plurality of the VCO frequency ranges with the frequency of a reference signal, the PLL feedback signal being generated according to the VCO output signal; ~~and~~.

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a feedback divider for generating the PLL feedback signal according to the VCO output signal;

wherein the calibration logic further comprises a frequency detector receiving the PLL feedback signal and the reference signal, and wherein the optimal VCO

Appl. No. 10/707,519
Amdt. dated January 26, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 28, 2005

frequency range comprises either a first VCO frequency range or an adjacent second VCO frequency range such that the frequency of the PLL feedback signal is faster than the frequency of the reference signal for the first VCO frequency range and the frequency of the PLL feedback signal is slower than the frequency of the reference signal for the second VCO frequency range;

5 the calibration logic further comprises a loop controller and during PLL calibration, when searching for the optimal VCO frequency range, the loop controller sends a synchronize signal to the feedback divider to synchronize the PLL feedback signal with the reference signal;

10 the calibration logic further comprises a switch for selectively connecting the input of the loop filter to a middle voltage, and wherein during PLL calibration, the calibration logic conducts a binary search starting from a middle VCO frequency range and proceeding until the optimal VCO frequency range is found; and

15 the optimal VCO frequency range comprises the first VCO frequency range when the time duration between the second rising edges of the reference signal and the PLL feedback signal for the first VCO frequency range is shorter than that of the second VCO frequency range, otherwise comprises the second VCO frequency range when the time duration between the first rising edges of the reference signal and the PLL feedback signal for the second VCO frequency is shorter than that of the first VCO frequency range.

20 25 16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

Appl. No. 10/707,519
Amdt. dated January 26, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 28, 2005

18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended): The PLL of ~~claim 18~~ claim 15, wherein the calibration logic
further comprises a switch for selectively connecting the input of the loop filter to a
5 maximum voltage or a minimum voltage depending on a control signal from the
loop controller, and wherein during PLL calibration, the calibration logic conducts a
linear search starting from a lowest VCO frequency range and proceeding until the
optimal VCO frequency range is found.

10 20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended): The PLL of ~~claim 18~~ claim 15, wherein the calibration logic
15 further comprises:

a storage unit storing a plurality of predicted first VCO frequency ranges indexed by
divide factors for the feedback divider;

20 wherein during PLL calibration, the calibration logic determines the first VCO
operating frequency range according to the predicted first VCO frequency range
retrieved from the storage unit according to the divide factor of the feedback divider.